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Thursday, February 14, 2013

News worth sharing.



# First-degree murder rap in boy's death

**Homicide.** 32-year-old woman, believed to be the child's mother, to appear in Edmonton court Friday

**ANNALISE KLINGBEIL**  
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A woman has been charged with first-degree murder after a seven-year-old boy was killed Tuesday morning.

Thirty-two-year-old Nerlin Sarmiento, who is believed to be the murdered child's mother, is facing one count of first-degree murder.

According to two Google+ profiles belonging to Sarmiento, she studied computer science and teaching in Colombia.

One of her online profiles links to stories about positive

**Quoted**

**"It is rare that we are called to investigate the criminal death of a child."**

Staff Sgt. Bill Clark, EPS Homicide Section

thinking, stress management and mental health and uses a poem about happiness in place of a profile picture.

"If you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you," states the poem.

Early Tuesday morning, EMS were called to an apartment building in Edmonton's Pleasantview neighbourhood.

They transferred a seven-year-old boy to hospital where he was pronounced

dead shortly after arrival.

"We firmly believe we have enough evidence to show the death was premeditated," said Staff Sgt. Bill Clark of the EPS Homicide Section in a press release Wednesday.

"This investigation has been extremely hard on the family and everyone involved, for obvious reasons."

While police are not releasing the cause of death, reports indicate the child drowned.

Sarmiento is scheduled to appear in court on Friday.

The child's father, who runs a web design and photography business in Edmonton, could not be reached on Wednesday.

The boy was a Grade 2 student at McKee School. A letter was sent home with students on Wednesday informing their parents and guardians of the tragic loss.

# FOOD BANKING

In what was not an effort to solve Alberta's looming budget crisis, Premier Alison Redford rolled up her sleeves Wednesday morning to roll pennies at the Edmonton Food Bank. The food bank has been collecting pennies since early January and had rolled \$2,000 worth, with many more still to count. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO





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## Capital projects. Wildrose touts big spending plan

The opposition Wildrose party says its 10-year plan for capital spending would deliver what taxpayers want while avoiding debt by stretching out the timeline on projects.

"We can have everything. We just can't have everything all at once," leader Danielle Smith said on Wednesday as she outlined the \$48-billion plan. It would allocate more than \$21.6 billion to municipalities, \$22.2 billion for school, hospital and road construction and \$4.2 billion for other non-core facilities. Increases would be tied to population growth and inflation.

"The key word here is reasonable (spending)," Smith said. "We can't keep on ramping up spending to record levels every time the price of oil or gas spikes, only to send it plunging back to earth just as fast when those revenues drop. That is just not responsible government."

Smith said Alberta spends about \$1,780 per person on capital projects.

Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk attacked the Wildrose proposal as a "thin" back-of-the-napkin calculation with broad promises and little detail.

"The (Wildrose) refuses to come clean with Albertans over exactly which roads will not be paved this year, which specific schools won't be built and which health-care facilities will be delayed," he said in a release. "The official Opposition continues to play political games."

Premier Alison Redford has said her government will take on debt to pay for crucial infrastructure that she says can't wait in a province with a population at 3.7 million and growing. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Aaron Soos, left, and Robert Gilgen inside a hangar at the Edmonton City Centre Airport. Along with other partners, the two businessmen and amateur pilots would like to build a new airport in Parkland County. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

# New airport aims to take City Centre's wings

**Build it, and they will come.** Group of business partners proposing Parkland County development

**RYAN TUMILTY**  
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Plans for a new airport in Parkland County are getting ready for takeoff thanks to a group of investors looking to replace flights lost with the closure of the Edmonton City Centre Airport.

Robert Gilgen, president of the Parkland Airport Development Corporation, and several business partners are hoping to break ground on

the airport as early as next year. It would be built just outside Edmonton's city limits.

The group has negotiated rights to buy land just west of Anthony Henday Drive and north of Whitemud Drive and plans to start the process of seeking development approval. Gilgen, an amateur pilot, said he believes there's a great community at the city centre that could move to the new site.

"There is a capacity here that currently doesn't exist in the other airports. Businesses will need to move and they will need a new home," he said.

The airport would start with a 5,000-foot runway that would handle virtually all of the aircraft that use the City Centre's 5,500-foot runway.

### Taking flight

- The proposed airport would start with one 5,000-foot runway and if that went well a second 8,000-foot runway could be added.
- City council voted to shutter the City Centre Airport in 2009, and the first runway was closed in 2010. A date for the closure of the second runway has not been set.

Gilgen said the new airport could be home to flight schools, amateur pilots, business and government jets and even medevac flights, noting the site would be half the dis-

tance to the city compared to the international or Ville-neuve airports.

One of Gilgen's partners, Aaron Soos, said a new area airport would be great for Edmonton because it would fill a void.

"The others are smaller airports and Edmonton doesn't have that mid-sized airport," Soos said.

One runway at the city centre airport has already closed and the city plans to begin redeveloping the site as early as next year. Gilgen said if the city can keep the runway open until 2015, it would greatly ease the transition.

"We hope that they will keep it open long enough so we can get open and these aircraft can transfer to our field," he said.

1 NEWS



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# Diversity of languages vital at Edmonton Public Library



Asha is a library assistant at the Mill Woods branch of the Edmonton Public Library. She was hired just over a year ago in part because she can speak Punjabi. HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

## Language by numbers

- 56,567 items are in the world languages collection at the EPL, which includes physical items such as books, DVDs, etc. in 30 languages.
- 17,001 items make up the Chinese collection, the largest, which were circulated nearly 160,000 times in 2011.
- 2 items exist in each of the languages Dinka and Tigrigna.
- 9 branches offer an English Conversation Circle, which is one of EPL's many language learner programs.
- 56.6% of the collection is for adults, while 38.1% is for juveniles and 1.4 per cent for young adults.
- 1,471 items make up the Punjabi collection, the 10th largest, which were circulated more than 6,200 times in 2011.

## Cultural centre.

Customer requests and census data determine how EPL deals with non-English demand



HEATHER MCINTYRE  
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Employees are hired at Edmonton Public Library branches for their knowledge, experience, and sometimes for the languages they speak.

The EPL has more than 56,000 items in 30 different languages in its collection — the highest numbers yet — which are brought in based on census data and customer requests.

Census data released last October indicates nearly 240,000 Edmontonians now have a mother tongue other than English or French; mostly Chinese, Tagalog and Punjabi.

The largest world language collections at the EPL are Chinese and French, while Tagalog and Punjabi are two of many on the rise, said Mary Bennett, EPL adult collections librarian.

"That's the latest surge, so we have made an effort to address that increased population," she said. "I would say that those languages ... are where we've seen the most demand or the most use."

An increase in the items, especially over the last five years, is complemented by the fact that library staff combined can speak more than 30 languages. But a recruitment method that began as a pilot project just over a year ago ensures staff who speak specific languages work in certain areas of the city.

"For the first time we put a required language, a requirement of Punjabi, in a library assistant position at the Mill Woods branch," said Pam Ryan, EPL director of collections and technology.

Job postings have included a preference for languages other than English in the past,

## Majority share

5

Five branches are home to the majority of the world language collection: Stanley A. Milner (26%), Whitemud Crossing (12.6%), Londonderry (9.4%), Lois Hole (9%), and Mill Woods (7.8%).

## Newcomer retreat

### First stop: EPL

Known as public community hubs, libraries are often the first place visited by newcomers to a city.

At least that's the case in Edmonton, according to Mana Ali, child and family service co-ordinator at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

EMCN staff send new

Edmontonians to their nearest Edmonton Public Library branch, or even offer a tour and taste of programming.

"It's a place where they can go morning, evening, during the day. (And) where they can get information and get connected to their community," said Ali.

With a variety of languages already spoken by frontline staff at EPL branches across the city, Ali is happy to know that cer-

tain areas are being targeted and that more will be in the future.

"I think it's really important because there is a lot of diversified communities in certain neighbourhoods," she said. "Like Londonderry, Castledowns, Mill Woods.

"Having somebody that speaks their language, it's easier to communicate, then they can access the resources."

but are only now starting to require it, said Ryan, noting that following an inventory in December of the languages frontline staff can speak, she expects the practice to expand.

Asha, who did not want her last name used, was the hire at the Mill Woods branch just over a year ago. The library assistant, who moved from India in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in library science, speaks not only Punjabi, but also Hindi and Urdu — and uses them daily with customers.

"I have been approaching

when I find them reluctant to approach people," said Asha. "Once I talk to them, then the comfort level is there and they know there is someone who they can approach in their own language, and that's no (longer) a barrier for them."

On top of census data and customer requests, 18 community librarians across the city connect with diverse groups and agencies, reporting back what is needed and desired. Ryan said those positions don't have a language requirement, but that they may in the future.



EPL adult collections librarian  
Mary Bennett CONTRIBUTED



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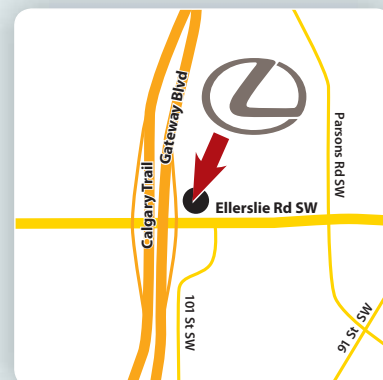
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## U of A study. Negative billboards are more distracting to drivers

Many drivers have lingered a little too long on a passing billboard, but new research at the University of Alberta has found it is more than just underwear models that can cause our eyes to wander.

Researcher Michelle Chan discovered that negative, emotionally-charged words can distract a driver from the road in front of them.

"When participants see negative stimuli, they react quickly to it and they react longer to it," said Chan.

Chan tested drivers in a simulator and found when they passed billboards with negative words on them they

### Distracted research

The research also tested drivers with positive words on billboards, but found their performance didn't suffer with the positive messages.

were far more likely to have accident than when they saw words with positive ones.

Chan, who is planning further research, said the research could give cities the tools they need to regulate billboards.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

### Pop-country superstar

## Swift to play two shows at Rexall

She may be never, ever, ever getting back with her exes, but she is returning to Rexall Place.

Northlands announced Wednesday that Taylor Swift, the pop-country

sensation and seven-time Grammy winner will be returning to the city this year.

Swift will perform on June 25 and June 26, with Ed Sheeran. Tickets for the show will go on sale Friday, Feb. 22 through the Rexall Place box office and Ticketmaster.

METRO

# Mayor calls for slowdown, report on bike lane plan



Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel has weighed in on the city's bike lane plans, saying city administration needs to slow down and reconsider the options.

CONTRIBUTED/CITY OF EDMONTON

### Public concern.

Many in city worried about impact of adding bike lanes; activist says it's a worthwhile endeavour

RYAN  
TUMILTY

ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Mayor Stephen Mandel has added his voice to those calling for the brakes to be put on the city's bike transit plan.

Mandel weighed in Wednesday morning at the city's transportation committee meeting on plans that have caused public concern, ask-

### Quote

"You can't start eliminating parking in neighbourhoods so you can have bike lanes."

Mayor Stephen Mandel

ing for a report on the process that he believes is moving too fast.

"I like things to move quickly, but I am concerned that once you put them in, it's hard to get them out," said Mandel.

Mandel said he still supports more bike lanes, but the process is ignoring some of the realities of narrow streets in older neighbourhoods and the need for businesses to have parking.

"You can't start eliminating parking in neighbourhoods so you can have bike lanes."

Chris Chan, executive director of the Edmonton bicycle commuters' society, said the plan only takes away some parking and is worthwhile for the broader good.

"It's not about eliminating motor vehicles from the streets; it's about getting a little bit of space, for the first time, dedicated to cyclists."

Chan said there are 4,700 kilometres of roads in the city and this year's plan is about adding 23 kilometres for cyclists.

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# Just too much? New blog exposes troubling tweets

**Female premiers face war of words.** 'I think this kind of behaviour needs to be shamed,' says owner who hates hateful speech



LUKE SIMCOE  
Metro Online

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is "a lesbian tree hugger."

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois, "a dumb b—."

And depending on who you ask, B.C.'s Christy Clark needs to either button up her shirt or simply take it off.

These are the kinds of tweets, Facebook posts and comments you'll find collected at Madam Premier, a new blog dedicated to exposing the vitriol hurled at Canada's female first ministers.

"Their jobs are hard enough without having to



All part of the job? Snide online comments are made regularly about, from left, Kathleen Wynne, Alison Redford, Christy Clark and Pauline Marois. METRO FILES

be criticized on the basis of their gender," says the blog's owner, Diamond Isinger.

"If I wasn't already involved, this certainly wouldn't encourage me to enter into public life or electoral politics."

A resident of Vancouver, Isinger started the blog Tuesday night. By Wednesday afternoon, nearly 3,000 people had visited.

The blog is part of a new "naming and shaming" tactic, where activists point fin-

gers at those posting hateful speech online.

Last year, a Toronto feminist made headlines for identifying the man behind a violent and misogynistic video game. Shortly after, a Calgary man was fired from his job for mocking bullied teen Amanda Todd on Facebook.

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant," Isinger says. "I think this kind of behaviour needs to be shamed."

A surprising number of comments — most of which

are profane or sexual — appear to be posted under people's real names.

"It signals that we have a culture that's comfortable with this kind of thing. People feel they can say this stuff without repercussion," says Isinger.

York University's Dr. Jennifer Jenson says that by aggregating misogynistic comments, blogs like Madam Premier show that sexism is still a systemic problem.

"It's about compiling it so

that it doesn't seem like it's just one guy doing this," she says. "When you see it this way, it's a literal documentation of the different kinds of people who feel compelled to say derogatory things about women in power."

Jenson says online comments made about female politicians often differ from those directed at men.

"We never say, 'Did you see the bulge in the premier's pants?'"

MORE AT METRONEWS.CA

## Commons chuckles

### Tories say they'll zap zombies

Will zombies ever take over Parliament Hill?

Never! Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird is on the case.

Baird assured the House of Commons on Wednesday that Canada remains a zombie-free zone.

Winnipeg New Democrat Pat Martin raised the matter of a Quebec government disaster-planning exercise that used a mock zombie invasion as its premise.

B-movie templates of an invasion of the "living dead" have also been used for drills in the U.S.

"I don't need to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that zombies don't recognize borders," Martin warned the House, tongue firmly in cheek.

Is Baird, asked Martin, working with the U.S. "to develop an international zombie strategy so that a zombie invasion does not turn into a zombie apocalypse?"

Baird said he was "dead-icated" to the matter.

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# To gamble is not divine, says Quebec lotto commission

**Papal search.** Betting on the new pope ruled out as bookies deem French-Canadian cardinal a top pick

All bets are off in Quebec as to whether a local becomes the next pope.

The provincial lottery commission says it will not follow the lead of some foreign gambling houses that allow people to place bets on who might inherit St. Peter's throne.

The organization isn't swayed by the fact that a fellow Quebecer, Marc Cardinal Ouellet, just so happens to be the favourite or among the top picks, according to bookmakers.

While Loto-Quebec recently branched out beyond sports gambling by introducing betting on the upcoming



Odds are good that Quebec's Marc Cardinal Ouellet will be the next pope. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

ing Oscars, a spokesman said Wednesday it has no plans to get into religion.

"Loto-Quebec has no intention to offer betting on the identity of the next pope," said spokesman Jean-Pierre Roy. "I don't think that's what people would expect from a government organization."

Roy said sports gambling has been a fixture since the early 1990s. In recent weeks, the corporation has been testing the waters on betting on the Oscars, and Roy says it will only know after the Feb. 24 ceremony whether it was a hit.

The Atlantic Lottery Corp. was the first to announce it would offer Oscar betting this year.

"But betting on a religious event — we're not sure that would be the best way to go," Roy said.

Since Pope Benedict XVI's surprise announcement on Monday that he will step down on Feb. 28, Quebecers have weighed in on whether Ouellet could be next in line.

Ouellet, the 68-year-old native of La Motte, Que., was named a cardinal in 2003. In 2010 he was made head of the powerful Congregation for Bishops, which vets bishops nominations worldwide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## Moscow

## Russia plans to continue shipping arms to Syria

Russia will keep supplying weapons to Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime despite the country's escalating civil war, the head of Russia's state arms trader said Wednesday.

Anatoly Isaikin, the director of Rosoboronexport, said Russia sees no need to stop its arms trade with

Syria as the trade isn't prohibited by the United Nations. He dismissed western criticism of Russian arms sales to Assad's regime, saying his company has only delivered defensive weapons.

Russia also held out the prospect of bringing the two sides in the Syrian conflict together for talks. "We are prepared to provide the venue for Syrian talks if they want to meet in Moscow," said Mikhail Bogdanov, a deputy foreign minister. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Washington

## Bill would extend immigration rules to gay couples

The head of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee wants the government to start affording gay married couples the same immigration benefits that heterosexual couples now enjoy.

On Wednesday, Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat, introduced the Uniting Families Act, a bill that

would provide spousal immigration benefits to same-sex couples. Leahy discussed the bill briefly during a committee hearing on immigration reform.

Because the federal government does not currently recognize same-sex marriages, U.S. citizens cannot sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration benefits, including green cards.

The Supreme Court is set to take up three gay-marriage cases later this year. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# Plane crash in Ukraine leaves 4 dead

**Champions League match.** Passengers on wrecked flight were headed to soccer game

## Bad reputation

- In recent years, former Soviet republics have had some of the world's worst air-traffic safety records. Experts blame that record on aircraft age, weak government controls, poor pilot training and a cost-cutting mentality.

A passenger plane carrying soccer fans headed for a match skidded past the landing strip and overturned in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk on Wednesday, killing four people, injuring two and leaving the fate of two others unknown, officials said.

The small, Soviet-designed AN-24 plane was carrying 45 people from the Black Sea port of Odesa, according to emergency officials. It was not immediately clear what caused the crash landing, Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Inna Sedova told The Associated Press. The plane was operated by the small Southern Airlines company, which mostly runs domestic flights out of Odesa.

Donetsk Gov. Andrei Shishatsky said that rescuers had located one of the mis-

sing people in the wreckage of the plane but were still unsure whether the person was alive, the Interfax news agency reported. Interfax also quotes surviving passenger Dmitry Verbitsky as saying that the plane had caught fire during the crash landing, but it was quickly put out.

Shishatsky spokeswoman Rimma Fil said that most of the passengers were likely heading for Wednesday night's Champions League soccer match between Ukraine's Shakhtar and Borussia Dortmund. The match opened with a minute of silence in memory of the dead.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



## Saying goodbye to a slain officer

Police patrol cars and motorcycles escort the hearse containing the casket of officer Michael Crain outside the Grove Community Church in Riverside, Calif., Wednesday. The 34-year-old Crain was ambushed in his patrol car on Feb. 7. Authorities believe the shooter was ex-Los Angeles policeman Christopher Dorner, who'd written a manifesto expressing anger over his firing by the LAPD. Dorner is believed to have died in a fire on Tuesday. **DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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# Wonky ship will be out of commission through April, Carnival says



A Coast Guard boat patrols near the cruise ship Carnival Triumph in the Gulf of Mexico on Monday. The ship was left floating aimlessly after an engine room fire knocked out its propulsion system. The Triumph, with 4,000 people aboard, is being towed to Mobile, Ala. and is expected to arrive Thursday.

LT. CMDR. PAUL MCCONNELL/U.S. COAST GUARD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Not such a Triumph. Cruise line nixes 12 more voyages aboard ship stranded in Gulf

Carnival Cruise Lines has cancelled voyages through April aboard the Triumph, a ship that has been plagued by mechanical problems in recent weeks and was finally left powerless in the Gulf of Mexico after an engine-room fire.

Carnival's announcement of the 12 cancelled trips came Wednesday as the Triumph was being towed by two tugboats to a port in Mobile, Ala., with more than 4,000 people on board, some of whom have told relatives that conditions on the ship are dismal and that they

have limited access to food and bathrooms. Two other cruises were called off shortly after Sunday's fire.

Carnival disputes accounts that the ship is filthy, saying it's doing everything to make sure passengers are comfortable.

Weather permitting, the Triumph should arrive in Mobile sometime Thursday.

Debbi Smedley, a passenger on a recent Triumph cruise, said the ship had trouble on Jan. 28 as it was preparing to leave Galveston, Texas. Hours before the scheduled departure time, she received an email from Carnival stating the vessel would leave late because of a propulsion problem. Passengers were asked to arrive at the port at 2 p.m., two hours later than originally scheduled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Tennesseessee

### Pastor wants his deadly snakes back

An eastern Kentucky pastor wants Tennessee wildlife officials to return five venomous snakes confiscated in Knoxville, Tenn.

Gregory Coots, who's known as Jamie Coots, is pastor of at the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Jesus Name Church in Middlesboro, Ky. Coots handles the snakes as part of worship services.

He told a television

station he bought three rattlesnakes and two copperheads in Alabama on Jan. 31. While he was driving through Knoxville, police stopped Coots for dark window tinting and saw the cages containing the snakes. A state wildlife officer confiscated them.

Coots is charged with illegally possessing and transporting wildlife. He was similarly charged in Kentucky in 2008, but said he now has a permit for snakes in Kentucky.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## United Arab Emirates

### World's biggest Ferris wheel to be built in Dubai

Dubai's ruler has approval a \$1.6-billion US island development project that would be home to what's billed as the world's biggest Ferris wheel.

The official WAM news agency said Wednesday that the Ferris wheel, dubbed the Dubai Eye, will stand 210 metres, ex-



The London Eye will be dwarfed by a planned Ferris wheel in Dubai. GETTY IMAGES FILE

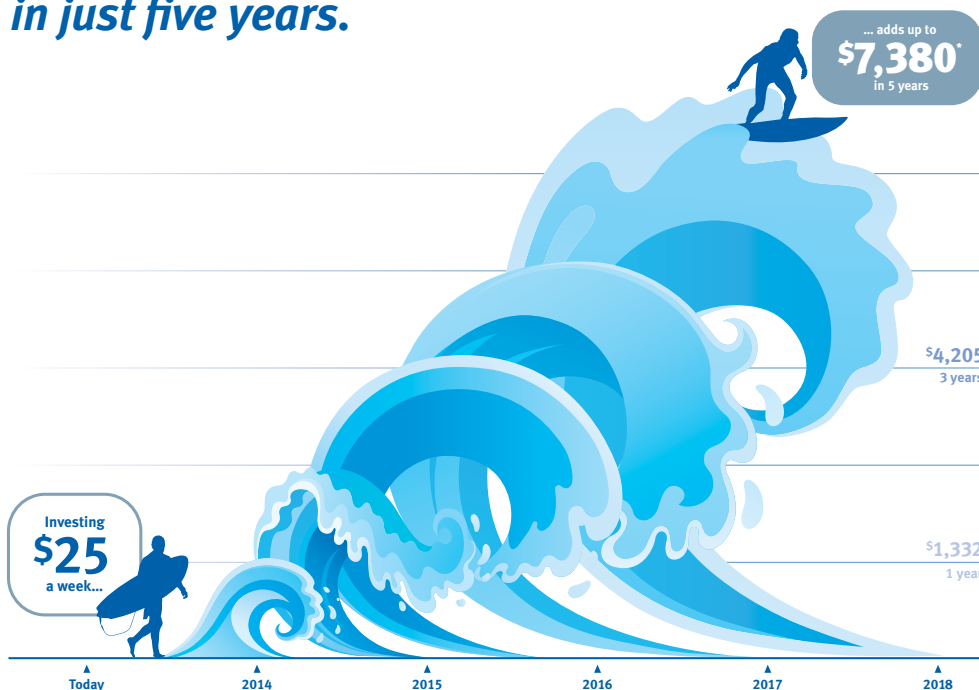
ceeding the London Eye's 135 metres. Construction is set to begin this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## Rock on. Scientists look for alien life on Earth

Some U.S. scientists are helping search for evidence of alien life not by looking into outer space, but by studying some rocks right here on Earth.

Some of the rocks are up to 3.5 billion years old. The scientists are looking for crucial information to understand how life might have arisen elsewhere in the universe and guide the search for life on Mars one day.

"There's a story always hidden in rocks," said geoscientist Clark Johnson, the lead investigator for the Wisconsin Astrobiology Research Consortium.

"It's up to (geologists) to be clever enough to find the tools that we need to interrogate

### Tiny treasure hunt

- The scientists are looking for biosignatures, or footprints of biological activity, which are substances such as elements or isotopes that show evidence of ancient life.
- They're also looking for microscopic signs of life, including microbes, which are bacteria, and other tiny, one-celled organisms.

those rocks to find what story they preserve."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Apple

## MacBook Pro cheaper, faster

Apple says it has lowered the price of its 13-inch MacBook Pro laptops by \$200 and updated its processors. It also launched new models with faster processors and more memory.

Apple Inc. said Wednesday that the MacBook Pro with "Retina" display and 128 gigabytes of flash memory will now cost \$1,499, down from \$1,699. A new model with 256 gigabytes of flash will cost \$1,699.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Brazilian patent office

## Local company has rights to 'iPhone'

Brazil's patent authority has taken a bite out of Apple with an announcement Wednesday that the iPhone name in Brazil belongs to a local company called Gradiente SA, not to the global computer giant. The verdict doesn't forbid Apple from using the name in Brazil.

Gradiente had filed its request to use the iPhone brand in 2000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Frozen lasagna

## Horsemeat reaches Germany

The European horsemeat scandal has spread to Germany. A spokeswoman for the country's agriculture and consumer protection ministry says officials were notified Tuesday that a shipment of frozen lasagna containing horsemeat was delivered to at least one trader in western Germany.

Millions of burgers and frozen meals have been recalled across Europe since the discovery of mislabelled horsemeat last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Market Minute



**DOLLAR**  
99.82¢ (+0.09¢)



**TSX**  
12,775.28 (-13.74)



**OIL**  
\$97.01 US (-\$0.50)



**GOLD**  
\$1,645.10 (-\$4.50)

**Natural gas:** \$3.31 (+8¢)  
**Dow Jones:** 13,982.91 (-35.79)

# New Canadian cell challenger on scene

**Halifax.** Eastlink first to offer 4G LTE network



**ALY THOMSON**  
For Metro in Halifax

A Halifax communications company is now competing with some of Canada's wireless giants.

Eastlink, owned by Bragg Communications Inc., is offering cellphones to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on a no-term contract basis.

Matthew MacLellan, president of Eastlink's wireless division, said the new service would include Canada's first and only 4G LTE network.

"You've got competitors of ours based out of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver," MacLellan told a crowd on Wednesday at the Eastlink store in downtown Halifax. "We think we can do it from Halifax and we think we can do it just as well and better."

"Why should you have to go to your cottage and have to stand up on the roof to try and get a cell signal?"



Eastlink's wireless president Matthew MacLellan shows off his smartphone before a launch party on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Existing Eastlink customers can opt to bundle a cellphone with their Internet, television or home phone to save 10 to 20 per cent.

"We really tried to listen to everything that customers said that they liked about cellphones and cellphone companies and the things they didn't like," MacLellan said.

## Card payments. Retailers misled: Watchdog

Some credit and debit card payment companies are breaking rules created to protect retailers, which in turn could be costing Canadians more money, a federal consumer watchdog says.

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada issued a warning to the industry on Wednesday that it will not tolerate payment companies who mislead merchants into paying hidden fees or lock them into confusing contracts.

The concerns stem from a code of conduct introduced by the federal government nearly three years ago to encourage further clarity in the contracts signed between retailers and credit and debit card companies.

But the agency said it found some payment companies, who it did not name, have been misrepresenting the terms of contracts with merchants by advertising and promising rates that they were unable to honour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## \$930,000 sought

## Former SNC exec filing lawsuit

A former SNC-Lavalin executive who worked with the jailed ex-head of SNC's construction division has

launched a nearly \$1-million wrongful dismissal and defamation lawsuit against the Montreal-based engineering giant. Stephane Roy said he was made a "scapegoat" and described as a "rogue employee" when he was fired a year ago despite always acting on the company's orders.

The former controller is seeking \$930,000 in lost

salary and benefits, including \$100,000 in moral damages and for ruining his reputation. He also seeks more than \$270,000 worth of shares held in a stock option plan.

Roy reported to Riadh Ben Aissa, who remains in custody in Switzerland on suspicion of laundering millions of dollars and bribing North African public officials. In

Canada, Ben Aissa is accused, alongside former CEO Pierre Duhaime, of fraud relating to the construction of a new super-hospital in Montreal.

Roy has never been charged but has been named in an RCMP affidavit with trying to smuggle former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son, Saadi, and his family into Mexico.

None of the allegations against the former SNC-Lavalin officials has been tested in court.

Roy said SNC-Lavalin created "a corporate culture where it was common practice to do all that was necessary, including the payment of 'commissions' and other benefits to obtain contracts, including in Libya." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**\$15,988**



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# Belgium criticized over conflict diamonds

### Easing restrictions.

Country claims concern is for Zimbabweans, monitoring group sees profit motive

A world monitoring group on conflict diamonds said Wednesday it wants restrictions on the sale of Zimbabwe diamonds tightened after calls to relax them by diamond com-

panies in Belgium.

Belgium has argued the controls hurt revenue filtering down to ordinary Zimbabweans. But Global Witness insisted in a statement circulated Wednesday the nation's interests were "closer to home" in its diamond centre of Antwerp that promotes diamond gifts around Valentine's Day.

The eastern Zimbabwe fields of Marange, where diamonds are mined, have long

been mired in allegations of killings, human-rights violations and corruption.

The group warned against what it called "a love triangle" between Belgium, its diamond dealers and Zimbabwe.

"European Union members seeking to promote democracy and stability in Zimbabwe should avoid a menage-a-trois with Belgium and its diamond dealers this Valentine's Day," it said.

It said Belgium is pressing for a European Union embargo on Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation — at the forefront of diamond sales — to be lifted immediately.

Global Witness called for the corporation to remain strictly bound by European restrictions and called for Chinese companies Anjin and Sam Pa to be added to the European sanctions list.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**An unidentified diamond trader examines a newly polished stone at the Diamond Market in Antwerp, Belgium.** GETTY IMAGES FILE

## \$930,000. Former SNC executive filing lawsuit

A former SNC-Lavalin executive who worked with the jailed ex-head of SNC's construction division has launched a nearly \$1-million wrongful dismissal and defamation lawsuit against the Montreal-based engineering giant. Stephane Roy said he was made a "scapegoat" and described as a "rogue employee" when he was fired a year ago despite always acting on the company's orders.

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and for ruining his reputation.

Roy reported to Riadh Ben Aissa, who remains in custody in Switzerland on suspicion of laundering millions of dollars and bribing North African public officials. In Canada, Ben Aissa is accused, alongside former CEO Pierre Duhaime, of fraud relating to the construction of a super-hospital in Montreal.

Roy was named in an RCMP affidavit with trying to smuggle former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son, Saadi, and his family into Mexico. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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# A WRITTEN HISTORY OF ST. VALENTINE



HE SAYS...  
John Mazerolle  
metronews.ca

One little known fact about me (along with every other fact) is that I am a Valentine's Day history buff. This is why so many women I've spent Valentine's Day with have told me, "You're

history." Their words, not mine.

It's a fascinating topic.

By looking back at the origins of Valentine's Day we can see how it overcame its humble beginnings as a 14th-century Coca-Cola promotion to become the genuine and understated holiday we know and love today, giving birth to some of the great poetry and art of our time.

The history of Valentine's Day: From mass decapitation to mass duplication:

## Ralph Wiggum syndrome

With its perfect pre-Hollywood combo of romance and violence, Valentine's Day became increasingly popular. The biggest breakthrough came in 1584 when journeyman poet William Shakespeare wrote "Bee my Valentine" next to a picture of a bee.

guished loves and several brutal wars. All was fair in both cases, and nobody ever had to say they were sorry.

The dismal state of affairs (most of the cards ended with the clunky "Be My Lupercalia") eventually changed with the birth of three different men named Valentine, a glorified soul considered so important to God that He built in double-redundancy. The three saints Valentine were very different people, but they all shared one romantic trait: They were all brutally executed.

This, of course, dovetails nicely with our perception of modern love. Since their beheadings, the most perfect loves in fiction have always ended in death (Romeo and Juliet, Rose and Jack, Teen Angel and Narrator) leaving many husbands and wives to wish their romances could end so perfectly.

A number of legends have grown around the executions of St. Valentine(s), not all of them true, but it's clear their deaths gave rise to several famous romance-related phrases.

For instance, it's well documented that the Grand Executioner began each decapitation with the solemn proclamation: "It's not you, it's me."

Also, each saint's head tended to fall on his twitching feet, leading to the well-known phrase, "head over heels." ("To wear your heart on your sleeve" also came about then, but it's best not to get into details.)

With its perfect pre-Hollywood combo of romance and violence, Valentine's Day became increasingly popular. The biggest breakthrough came in 1584 when journeyman poet William Shakespeare wrote "Bee my valentine" next to a picture of a bee. This brilliant bit of wordplay took off on Reddit, leading to fame and fortune for Shakespeare, despite claims of copyright infringement by user Francis Bacon.

Combined with the invention of the Gutenberg Laserjet Printer, spreading love around the world was soon as simple as plunking down \$8.95. By 2012, for the first time ever the illness that is love could spread worldwide just as quickly as love-related illnesses.

The poets of the past would be uncharacteristically speechless if they could see how easy sharing the perfect words has become. Though I think if Shakespeare were here today, he'd probably say, "What a time to bee alive. Or if not alive, to buzz off."

I'd love to see him top that.

# ... and they call it guppy love



CLELIA GASPARINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Advice from a guppy

### Choose an ugly wingman to make yourself shine

When it comes to mating, guppies treasure their ugly friends — because they look so good by comparison.

An article published Wednesday by Britain's Royal Society says that male guppies prefer to associate with their drab-coloured counterparts when females are around.

"Males actively choose the social context that maximizes their relative attractiveness," the article said. Or, as lead author Clelia Gasparini put it: "If you are surrounded by ugly friends, you look better."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## The dating game

- **Mating rituals.** An aquarium was set up with one female in partition on either end. Guppy bachelorette No. 1 had two attractive, brightly coloured males placed on either side of her. Guppy bachelorette No. 2 was stuck with uglier, drab-coloured fish.

- **The ugly guppy.** When a male guppy was put in the middle of the tank, and given the choice of which female to approach, bachelorette No. 2 was the more popular pick, with male guppies spending about 62 per cent of their time hanging around her side of the aquarium.

## Plenty of fish

### Ugly guppy plays matchmaker

The researchers also found that the time guppies spent with the guppy that was surrounded by ugly fish correlated with their unattractiveness. The uglier the guppy, the less likely it was that he would hang around the brightly coloured fish placed next to bachelorette No. 1.

Because it could be argued that guppies avoided their brightly coloured pals because attractive fish were more aggressive, or because predators were more likely to spot them, the experiment was repeated. Researchers ran it without any females, and again with the lights in the male enclosures turned down so that the test guppies couldn't see them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Only human

"As a researcher I cannot compare human mating systems with the guppies' one. But if you ask me as a person, sure ... I saw this tactic working pretty well with humans ... If you want to impress someone, do you think you will look more attractive in comparison with Mr. Bean or George Clooney?"

Clelia Gasparini, lead author of article published by Britain's Royal Society



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**@tylerjackbutler:** • • • • •  
#yeg — if you start a business delivering last minute potluck contributions to young office workers, you will have at least one client.

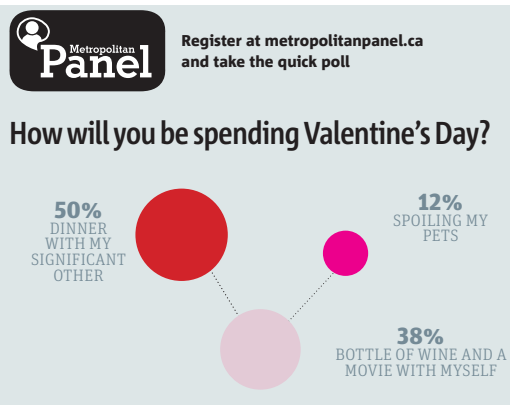
**@tallnicole:** • • • • •  
I was inclined to complain about the wind in #yeg today, until I remembered that it HELPS MELT THE SNOW! #springtime

**@cherylkardif:** • • • • •  
Yikes! Windy day here in Edmon-

ton, AB. Good thing I get to work from home! Saw some boxes fly by. & I think I saw a witch on a broom. #yeg

**@DanielleHigdon:** • • • • •  
I can handle snow, I can handle slush, I can handle wind, what I can not handle is an environmental cocktail of all three! #Yeg-weather #yeg

**@DeanDemitor:** • • • • •  
Lethbridge called, they want their wind back #YEG #Wind





# I Beliebe in Love

Illustration: Thomas Pittilli

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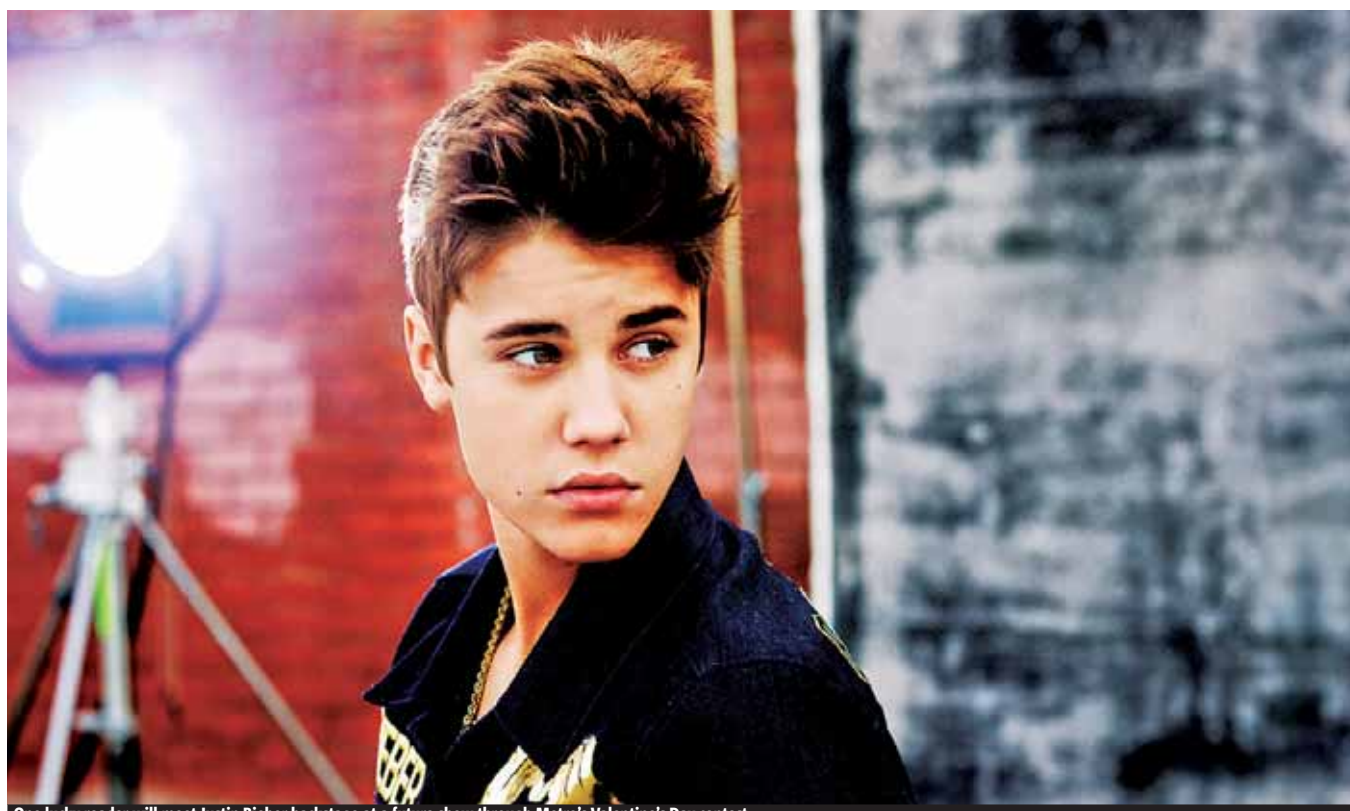
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No purchase necessary. Contest open to residents of Canada and certain other countries worldwide who are thirteen (13) years of age or older. Odds of winning depend on the number and caliber of eligible entries received. One (1) Grand Prize is available to be won, consisting of a trip to see Justin Bieber perform and meet Justin Bieber (approximate retail value of \$5,000 CAD). Skill testing question required. Contest closes February 28, 2013 at 12:00AM CET. To enter and for complete contest rules visit [www.facebook.com/metrointl](http://www.facebook.com/metrointl). Contest sponsors are Metro International S.A. together with its local Metro subsidiaries around the globe. The contest is in no way sponsored by Free Daily News Group Inc. or Pizza Pizza Limited. Neither Free Daily News Group Inc. nor Pizza Pizza Limited is responsible for this contest or its prize(s).





One lucky reader will meet Justin Bieber backstage at a future show through Metro's Valentine's Day contest. CONTRIBUTED

# Beliebe in love!

**Justin Bieber.** Enter our Valentine's Day contest for a chance to meet the superstar

**MICHAEL FREIDSON**  
Metro World News

Metro's Justin Bieber contest gives you the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet him backstage at a future show. Alas, we were not so lucky, but the superstar did answer some questions about his new album, *Believe Acoustic*, via email, shortly before heading out on his European tour.

**On *Believe Acoustic*, you sound more raw and more available than on previous big-production tracks. How do you make that intimacy sound authentic, even though you're ...**

## Justin Bieber?

It sounds authentic because it is. Acoustic performances, whether busking in my hometown or on YouTube, are how I got started. Songs and performances like that really give me the chance to connect with my fans. That connection is why I perform an acoustic set as part of my *Believe Tour* every night.

## Does this bring us closer to the "real" Justin?

I think everything I put out is a representation of the real me. But this album (*Believe Acoustic*) definitely allows the public to see a different side of me than *Believe*. The sound of this album is a lot rawer and more exposed.

**I ask because previous stars your age — Timberlake, Britney — usually start to define their sound for an older audience around this time. Where are you going?**

## Quoted

**"I'm just growing up and my sound is maturing with me. I just write about what is going on in my life."**

Justin Bieber, on his new album *Believe Acoustic*

**I'm just growing up and my sound is maturing with me. I don't spend a lot of time planning where my music will go next. I just write about what is going on in my life and how I am feeling and it's causing the music to grow with me in a very organic way.**

**Lots of guys in dorm rooms everywhere play acoustic guitars to pick up girls and fail, because they look cheesy. What tips do you have for them?**

Be confident.

**What are you doing this Valentine's Day?**

I've got a small break before my U.K. tour dates start so

I'm still figuring it out.

**What's the wildest offer you've had from a fan?**

I got a lot of marriage proposals.

**We have to ask about *Nothing Like Us*, a song about your break up with Selena Gomez — you told *Billboard* you're not in the happiest place and have friends to get you through. What have you learned about relationships?**

I have learned a lot about who I am and who I want to be.

**And?**

I've also learned how to be there for someone else.

## Bieber's V-Day Playlist

Justin creates his ultimate romantic mixed tape — fire up the iTunes and turn down the lights!

- **I'll Make Love To You.** Boyz II Men
- **As Long As You Love Me.** Justin Bieber
- **You Are Not Alone.** Michael Jackson
- **7 Days.** Craig David
- **Back at One.** Brian McKnight
- **Climax.** Usher
- **Because of You.** Ne-Yo
- **Let's Get it On.** Marvin Gaye
- **Best I Ever Had.** Drake
- **Broken Road.** Rascal Flatts



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## Romance



## Safe Haven

Director. Lasse Hallstrom

Stars. Josh Duhamel,  
Julianne Hough

Josh Duhamel and Julianne Hough are blandly likeable enough but this seventh big-screen adaptation of a Nicholas-Sparks-authored heart flutterer won't find a safe haven from discerning audiences. Simply put, this tale is about a woman seeking sanctuary in a sleepy town who falls for a widower while her psychotic hubby hunts her down. Veteran filmmaker Lasse Hallstrom (Dear John) does his best to mould the melodrama but Safe Haven is still mostly stale and unmistakably safe storytelling.

STEVE GOW

## Romance/Drama



## Beautiful Creatures

Director. Richard LaGravenese

Stars. Alice Englert,  
Alden Ehrenreich

Based on a series of young adult novels, Beautiful Creatures is likely aimed at the same cinematic spend-thrift crowd that turned the Twilight franchise into box-office alchemy. Adapting the love story between a longing, teenaged book-worm and his supernatural girlfriend with a curse, Oscar-nominated-filmmaker Richard LaGravenese (The Fisher King) clutters an ultimately simplistic story with complications that are neither all that compulsory nor compelling. It ends up anything but super or natural. **STEVE GOW**

## Action



## A Good Day To Die Hard

Director. John Moore

Stars. Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney,  
Sebastian Koch

The original Die Hard is an '80s classic. A near perfect mix of action, humour and Bruce Willis' charisma, it was a claustrophobic thriller set inside an office building. Since then the movies have slowly opened up the action, becoming more generic with every added location. The new film sees Willis in Russia joining forces with his CIA operative son (Jai Courtney). It has exotic locations and a body count that would take a mathematician to calculate, but none of the wit or style of the first film.

RICHARD CROUSE

## JOHN MCCLANE'S BODY COUNT

We chart the number of bad guys Bruce Willis has dispatched over the four Die Hard films — and see what the data might tell us about how he'll do in the fifth instalment, A Good Day to Die Hard.

DIE HARD  
(1988)DIE HARD 2  
(1990)DIE HARD WITH A  
VENGEANCE (1995)LIVE FREE OR  
DIE HARD (2007)

PREDICTION:  
A GOOD DAY TO  
DIE HARD (2013)



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# What comes first, the book or the film?

**Adaptations.** The original piece of work rules when looking for the premiere way of enjoying a story

As Ang Lee's striking film *Life of Pi* rides a wave of awards season glory, with 11 Oscar nominations and many other honours, the boy-tiger shipwreck story it's based on is also enjoying a boost.

Saskatoon-based author Yann Martel's Man Booker Prize-winning 2001 novel *Life of Pi* has been in the Top 20 on the New York Times Best Sellers list (and in the Top 10 several times) every week since the film came out in November.

The question is, are readers taking in the book before seeing the film, or vice versa?

If Martel had his way, it would be the former.

When it comes to book/film adaptations, "One should start with the original work," Martel wrote in a recent email to The Canadian Press, via his publicist.

"So read the novel if it came first (so read *Life of Pi* the book



If Yann Martel had his way, people would be reading *Life of Pi* before they saw the film. HANDOUT

before seeing the movie) or see the movie first if it was done first (so 2001: A Space Odyssey, which was a movie and then became a book).

"That way you get the originating artist's work in its first format rather than an adapta-

tion."

CBC Radio Writers & Company host Eleanor Wachtel agrees, noting "movies colonize your imagination."

"If you see the movie first and then read the novel, it's virtually impossible to block

out the actors who play the characters that you're now reading about," says Wachtel, who also hosts TIFF Bell Lightbox's Books on Film subscription series.

"So if you want to have that primary, intimate experience

with a novel, it's much, much better I think to read a book first and then see the film."

In some cases, movie-goers might even have a better understanding or appreciation of a film if they've read the book first, she adds.

## Look in a book...

With literary awards, social media platforms, book blogs and websites like Goodreads.com creating much buzz around books these days, it's hard to put off reading a story before its film release, notes Viveca Gretton of the Toronto Public Library. "People want to be part of that reading community," says the librarian. "One of the good things about reading the book is that it's going to take you to other books as well. It might start you on a path of reading similar books or books that interest you."

"Something like *Cloud Atlas*, which is quite a stupendous adaptation, I think it's much better to read the novel first," says Wachtel.

"The movie jump-cuts a lot ... but the novel is like six nesting bowls cut in half, each written in a different style, and if you don't read the novel first you won't really be able to appreciate that."

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# Bocelli sets the mood for Passione

**Love songs from the Mediterranean.** Legendary opera singer talks to Metro about reconnecting with songs from his youth

PAT  
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With his latest album, *Passione*, Andrea Bocelli has put together a collection of love songs from the Mediterranean, most of which he sang in piano bars during his formative (read: not yet famous) years in Italy.

**The songs on this album seem easier to sing.** It's easy for me, but the difficulty is in the expression that you have to put in these

kinds of songs, because the original interpreters of these songs are the best singers of the world. So I have to be very careful to put all my heart into the interpretations.

**Tell me about when you used to play these songs in piano bars.**

I began to sing pop music when I was 18 years old, more or less. ... Before, I sang and listened to only opera, because my passion is for that. But when I began to play in the piano bars, I discovered wonderful pages of music — of pop music. In a few months, I learned many songs, and I began to learn the most important and famous songs of the world like *Strangers in the Night* ... all the songs that I put now in these albums, because every song on this album is a beautiful memory of my youth.

**Tell me about this album's duets with Nelly Furtado and Jennifer Lopez.**

Those were mostly ideas that David Foster suggested. And for me, they were both beautiful surprises. ... They really are very expressive when they sing.

**There seems to be a real Latin flair on this album.**

The Latin world is (full) of great masterpieces. And after the great success that my previous album, *Amore*, had in the Latin world that was basically a collection of Latin songs, we thought it would be right to try to connect with that vibe.

**You do a duet of sorts with Edith Piaf. She died when you were about eight years old. Tell me about your connection with her.**

When I was a boy, I didn't know anything about Edith Piaf. ... But I did hear her voice, and ... it hit me deeply from the very first time that I heard it. ... And then of course, years later I actually learned more about her life ... and I realized that since she had some varied and very deep experiences in her life, this definitely must have helped her in becoming so expressive with her music.

**Do you pull from experiences to be more expressive?**

Absolutely, yes. ... Each one of us sings what we are. And therefore we express through our voice what cannot be expressed through words alone.



On his latest album, Andrea Bocelli sings with pop stars Nelly Furtado and Jennifer Lopez. GETTY IMAGES

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# Yo La Tengo continues sonic journey



After 30 years, Yo La Tengo is still going strong with the release of their 13th album. CARLIE ARMSTRONG/CONTRIBUTED

As Yo La Tengo close in on 30 years as a band, the trio has secured their name as one of the most beloved and long-standing survivors in indie-rock.

While most of their contemporaries have already broken up and launched reunion tours, Yo La Tengo continue on their sonic journey without interruption, and with a legacy and longevity revolving around consistency — not so much a consistency of sound, as much as providing a standard in making great, timeless records that will go down in the permanent lexicon and discography of indie-rock music.

Beginning in 1984, and based around the husband-and-wife harmonies of founding members Ira Kaplan and Georgia Hubley, the addition of James McNew in the early '90s put the band in a unique position where each of the members was now a potential singer and songwriter, making their music all the more diverse.

They have scored films, appeared on numerous compilations and even dared to take their already underground following to more obscure levels by creating a garage rock cover band known as Condo F—s for anyone following along.

With the recent release of *Fade*, their 13th official LP, the band seems to have created one of their most thematic and introspective records to date.

Beginning with the lines: "Sometimes the bad guys come out on top/ Sometimes the good guys lose/ We try not to lose our hearts/ Not to lose our minds," you get the sense that this is an album dealing with maturity and a search for answers.

And though the feeling seems to continue on throughout the record, the theme may not have been conscious at all.

"I probably would say it's not true," says singer and guitarist Kaplan. "But I could be lying. Although the songs are written over a year, the lyrics are not. The lyrics are written very quickly."

"We tend to sing along in a sort of nonsense kind of way and even record the songs without lyrics and at the last second come up with them. I think because of the speed and the concentrated space in which the lyrics are written, the songs end up talking to each other. But in no way is there a plan. It just sort of takes shape the way it does organically, not with a concept put behind it."

NOLAN GAWRON/METRO

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## Progression of sound

### Fade-ing in

With access to friends and jazz musicians who appear on *Fade*, Yo La Tengo's sound progression seems to continue to grow stylistically in dynamic while continuing to soften in decibel. But even that is questionable.

"Sometimes we're also

not the best judge of those types of things," says Kaplan. "We think we create a balance and maybe certain things jump out more than others. What we are doing on (our latest tour), though, is extremely different. We will essentially be our own opening act. So we do a first set of quieter songs and then the second set is louder."





Competitors take their mark during Edmonton's annual Silver Skate Festival. COURTESY MARC CHALIFOUX

# Winter festival a testament to Edmontonians' greatness

**Silver Skate.** Rooted in Dutch tradition, fest is city's longest running



JENNIFER LARAWAY  
Jennifer Laraway  
edmonton@metronews.ca

Any proud Edmontonian isn't afraid to get into a heated debate with an outsider about why we deserve to retain our City of Champions tagline.

Sure, it's been a while since we have seen the Grey Cup or Stanley Cup in this town. Perhaps it was our cup blitz that so tightly tied the two sports to our slogan.

But after interviewing so many passionate Edmontonians for this column, it's become clear who the true champions are: Edmontonians themselves. They are the ones with the vision and talent to pull together and grow some of the most amazing festivals North

## Fest facts

- Silver Skate is a free, all-age festival.
- ETS shuttle is available.
- Last year's attendance was more than 45,000.

America, if not the world, has seen.

Take Silver Skate Festival, for example. Rooted in a Dutch tradition for the love of outdoor winter activities, the festival started 23 years ago as just a battle of the blades when a group of devoted skaters decided to have a little competition in Hawrelak Park.

Today, Silver Skate is known as Edmonton's longest running winter festival and includes a range of activities and performances.

The event now features large-scale snow sculptures, skate races and demonstrations, a family fun zone, and even live music. One of

the highlights is the Baba Yaga Folk Trail, which includes jaw-dropping fire sculptures. Created by a team of artists, the trail portrays the story of Red Riding Hood and transforms the woods into a magical world of adventure.

It hasn't been easy though. Silver Skate producer Erin Di Loreto says: "We work regardless of what Mother Nature throws at us. Last year, we had a problem with the snow. Our triathlon competition turned into a biathlon and we had to make snow for the snow sculpture competition."

The group's efforts have paid off, literally. Over the years, they have earned more support from generous sponsors.

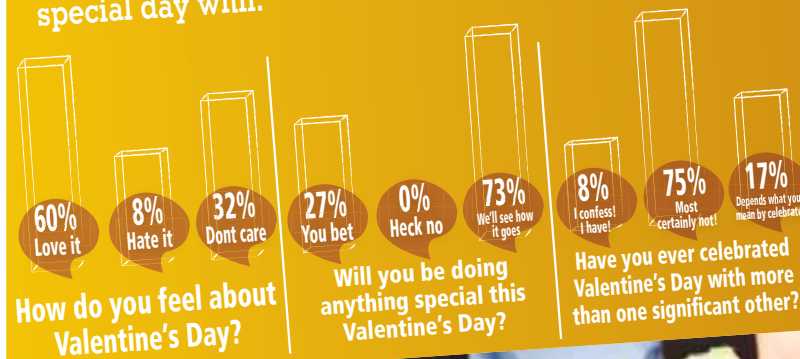
"We've been really lucky with our funding. As the festival grows, so does our needs."

The support enables organizers to keep the event free while relieving Edmontonians of their cabin fever from Feb. 15 to 18. For more info on the festival, visit [silverskatefestival.org](http://silverskatefestival.org).



## Sharing the love on Valentine's Day!

We asked our Metropolitan Panel what their plans are this Valentine's Day and who they'll be sharing their special day with.



How do you feel about Valentine's Day?

Will you be doing anything special this Valentine's Day?

Have you ever celebrated Valentine's Day with more than one significant other?

Whatever your plans are today we hope you'll be sharing it with someone special.

Care to share your opinion?  
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News worth sharing.



Bruce Willis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Willis only hits the bottle a bit now

Bruce Willis admits he used to have a drinking problem, leading to a brief foray into complete sobriety, but he's past all that now. "I had been sober (for a while)," he tells GQ magazine, explaining that he eased off his personal prohibition "once I realized that I wasn't going to run myself off the pier of life with alcohol, drinking vodka out of the bottle every day." As for his current drinking habits? "I have wine now,

mostly when I eat," he says. Of course, Willis is still facing the unstoppable march of time. "Nobody wants to hear this bad news, but we're all dying on some level," he says. "I'm going to try to keep this machine moving forward as much as possible and not have to think about the eventuality of becoming more frail and less able to do the work. I know that I'm not going into politics. That's not an option."

## Swift response to exes, Underwood



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift had more exes on her mind at the Grammys than just Harry Styles, whom she mocked during her performance of We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together. The lovelorn singer also made a point of avoiding ex-boyfriend John Mayer and his current squeeze, Katy Perry, despite being seated near each other, according to Us Weekly. And as for reports that Grammy organizers were ordered to keep Swift away from rival Carrie Underwood? "Taylor feels Carrie is always rude to her, so she steers clear of her," a source tells the magazine, pointing out that "after Carrie performed, Taylor didn't stand. Everyone else did."

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Hugh Jackman: Nope, not gay



THE WORD  
Dorothy Robinson  
scene@metronews.ca

Just because he has a deep love of musical theatre, lives in the West Village and has an older wife does not make Hugh Jackman gay. In an in-depth interview with The Hollywood Reporter, the Australian star addresses the gay rumours that constantly swirl around him. "Just recently, it bugs her," Jackman, 44, said about what his wife of 16 years, Deborah-Lee Furness, 57, reads online. "She goes: 'It's big. It's everywhere!'" His X-Men producer Lauren Shuler Donner even went

on record with the magazine to talk about their marriage. "I have seen him with Deborah since the beginning of their trip to Hollywood, and I've been on five movie sets with him and have never seen him stray, have never seen him eye anyone," she said. "I met him when he did Oklahoma! (at London's Royal National Theatre in 1999). He was genuine, hugely talented. He was in love with his wife that day and still is."

Doth thou protest too much? Who gets their producer on record to talk about the state of their marriage?

See? I'm doing it too! Why can't we believe that a drop-dead handsome, successful matinee idol can be happily in love with someone not on his level, looks-wise? Also, aren't we at the place in society that he could come out if he wanted to? Or am I just dreaming big here?



Lady Gaga

## Gaga's pain puts concerts on hold

Lady Gaga has postponed her next four concerts because a joint inflammation condition called synovitis has left her unable to walk, she revealed on Twitter. "I've been hiding a show injury and chronic pain for some time now. Over the past month it has worsened," the singer tweeted. "I've

been praying it would heal. I hid it from my staff. I didn't want to disappoint my amazing fans. However, after last night's performance I could not walk and still can't." Makeup dates for the cancelled shows — in Chicago, Detroit and Hamilton, Ont. — have yet to be announced.

### Twitter



@EmmaBunton  
I've been hacked!!!!



@carrieunderwood  
Why do dogs' paws smell like Fritos? More importantly, why do I love to smell my dogs' paws? These are a couple of life's big questions...



@JimCarrey  
America has become the biggest gun club in the world and every single day now we are seeing that Karma played out.



@OfficialAdele  
Chris Brown and I were complimenting each other in that photo actually!



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Trinidadian-born American rapper Theophilus London now calls Brooklyn his home. HANDOUT

# London calling: Theophilus and the finer things

**The song and pants.** Young artist helping to usher in an era where hip hop and High Street go hand in hand

**RICHARD PECKETT**  
life@metronews.ca

"Kids used to want to be rappers, but now they want to be fashion designers, which is cool. It's an education," says Theophilus London. The New-York-based rapper is talking about his legions of fans and network of starry friends, which he refers to as "kids." But in terms of the music industry, London, at 25, is still a youth himself — though a savvy one.

In fact, he's probably had more magazine and newspaper profiles (GQ, Esquire, Elle, The New York Times) and fashion collaborations (Cole Haan, Stüssy and Surface to Air) than he's had musical airtime. And he can name drop with the best of them. Solange Knowles

is "like family, like a sister." He casually mentions seeing mood boards out at Kanye West's house. Those are some impressive connections considering that London, who was actually born in Trinidad, has only released one album, an EP and a selection of mix tapes.

Usually the lucrative endorsement spoils are rewarded after years of toil, making records or movies. However, London has managed to capitalize off of his personal style and cool credibility first.

"Rappers used to be wearing Air Jordans. I still wear them. But now, the progressive kids are more educated and wanting Givenchy, Rick Owens or Alexander Wang. And Kanye's clothes — they're dope," he says.

While London is answering my interview questions from the set of a Chevrolet commercial, he swears he approaches it all with a strategy and awareness that extends beyond the next commercial paycheck. "I'd never do anything with McDonald's, for example. They're not moral," he says. "I have my

own agenda." For now, that includes a new album coming out this summer and planned collaborations with Azealia Banks and Frank Ocean. "I never do things just for the money. I have to believe in it."

## Independently inspired



## A studied approach to style

"The black suit and hat that I'm wearing on the cover of my first album, Timez Are Weird These Days, was inspired by Leon Ware (the writer behind Marvin Gaye's I Want You record). I got a lot of work off of the back of that. I know how to dress. I have a look and I don't need a stylist to tell me what to wear," London said.

## Hipster hop

"Rappers used to be wearing Air Jordans. I still wear them. But now, the progressive kids are more educated and wanting Givenchy, Rick Owens or Alexander Wang."

Theophilus London

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# LET'S GET IT ON

## KEEP THE SPICE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

**S**ex. The word grabs our attention, but in many relationships, especially when overtime and small children are in the mix, the act gets neglected.

When couples have busy lives, "the first thing to go is the libido," says relationship expert Margaret Hicks, a couples and sex therapist at Hicks Counselling, based in Toronto.

Loss of sex drive is especially common among women that work and have young kids, she says. "It's the No. 1 thing that goes and nobody tells anybody."

So let's be frank. If your sex life is lacklustre, talk about it and work with your partner to make it better.

### MAKE TIME

"Make romantic time/sexual time a priority," Hicks says. Scheduling intimacy may seem unromantic, but it goes miles toward helping couples get their groove back, she says. Making time for sex is especially important when couples lead busy lives (we're looking at you, Metro readers), where work and other duties can



EYECANDY IMAGES/THINKSTOCK

take over. Pencil in one night a week, reserve your Sunday mornings — whatever works for you, Hicks says.

Couples should give themselves, "the space and energy to commit to being sexual," she advises.

### FLIRT

Do little things for your partner through-

out the week to warm up for your scheduled sexy time. A flirtatious text message here, a back rub there.

It all helps build mutual appreciation that will enhance your time together, Hicks explains.

And don't forget the important dates. Valentine's Day, anniversaries and birthdays might seem unimportant to you, but

if they are important to your partner, they are worth heeding.

### APPROACH CONFLICT DIRECTLY AND WITH SENSITIVITY

Anyone who has ever had a fight with their partner knows that conflict can get in the way of a healthy sexual relationship. "Watch how you talk with your partner. Try to be direct and clear," Hicks advises. Little cutting remarks, sarcasm and negativity can breed anger and defensiveness between a couple. Instead of getting mad, try to understand your partner's point of view and show them you care, even if you respectfully disagree, Hicks says.

### GET SEXY

This point is important for anyone whose libido plummets when they feel unattractive. "It's important to feel good about yourself," Hicks says. So crank that Marvin Gaye, light candles and wear makeup, perfume or clothes in which you feel good. Whatever makes you feel sexy, Hicks explains. "Sex is intentional. Make it a priority. Make it ongoing." — Stephanie Orford

## TOYS CAN CREATE A FEELING OF EXCITEMENT

If you think a bouquet of roses is the standard Valentine's gift, you might want to think again. More than ever before, couples are headed to the adult toy store for their Valentine's shopping. Once viewed as mere novelties, and ones meant solely for use alone, adult toys have enjoyed a surge in popularity and acceptance among couples. Many people are discovering the benefits of incorporating play into their sex lives. Brenda Kerber, owner of the Traveling Tickle Trunk, has been educating people about these benefits for years. "There are many ways that sex toys can make our sex lives, and our relationships, happier and more satisfying," she says, "and not necessarily in the ways you might think". Among the benefits she notes are:

Toys help us to laugh. Laughter reduces the production of stress

hormones which interfere with feeling relaxed and focused during sex. Also, when we laugh, our bodies produce endorphins which can contribute to us feeling happier and more positive during sex.

Sex toys can be conversation starters for partners. Many of us find it hard to tell our partners what we are feeling during sex, or what feels good or exciting to us. When you introduce a toy, you'll naturally want to talk about what you thought of it. This is a great lead in to talking about other aspects of your sex life.

Toys can create a feeling of excitement. When you do something you've never done before, or something that feels just a bit daring, your blood gets pumping, your hormones start flowing, and every sensation you experience feels more intense.

A new experience with a toy can become a bonding experience between partners. It's something you two have tried together and shared together, and only you know about. That sweet secret can create a feeling of closeness. If the idea intrigues you but the thought of shopping for adult toys conjures up images of seedy corner video stores, you'll be in for a pleasant surprise. "The new generation of toy store owners understands that people want a place where they can feel comfortable," says Kerber, "they want to know that they are buying safe, quality products." Sex-positive toy boutiques, like the Traveling Tickle Trunk in Edmonton, offer an open, bright and inviting atmosphere where people are encouraged to handle the demonstration models, read the books, and chat with the staff. "Far from



an embarrassing drop-in for a quick purchase, a visit with us can turn out to be a lot of fun," says Kerber, "Our customers often spend an hour or even more in a visit, checking everything out, and they usually leave with some

new information or some great ideas to incorporate into their love lives."

If you've been looking for a new and exciting idea for Valentine's Day, a trip to the adult toy store, might just be the perfect date.



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# Even you can have a stylish kitchen



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
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## Trendy. Useful stylist tricks to make your kitchen look fabulous

With so many kitchens being designed smaller in size and open concept to fit our living spaces, it's important that they function well but look good at all times.

From someone who staged, propped and styled rooms for magazines and television shows for many years, here's a few stylist tricks to make your kitchen — no matter how large, small, high-end or low-end — look great at all times.



### Repackage

Put packaged necessities in attractive display containers. Your favourite pasta, granola and espresso beans can be stored in decorative containers and displayed on the counter or behind glass doors.

#### Hint:

When displaying storage containers like baskets, jars or boxes, rely on the repeat method to help simplify the overall look. Using three to five of the same containers will allow a kitchen to look less eclectic.

### Small scale

Look for space-saving countertop appliances in a small kitchen. Small and efficient appliances will save space and still offer up all the conveniences of a large kitchen.



### Stand tall

Stand up trays, cutting boards and platters to hide unattractive backsplash. Choose fun shapes and trend-setting colours to help bring a boring kitchen to life. They even work standing up in the back of an open shelf or inside a glass-fronted cabinet. Got a really ugly backsplash? Try leaning a long dressing mirror horizontally across the back of the counter.



### No faux pas

Mix artificial plants with real herbs/flowers. Every kitchen, no matter what size, needs a lush look. Adding real herbs and small plants with faux will extend the lush look long after the herbs have been used up and the next shopping day is near.



### Tray it

Keep everyday items clustered on a tray. A tray filled with your morning French press, artificial sweeteners, bean grinder and your favourite mug will not only keep the counter looking tidy but keep you organized in the morning. Another tray with olive oils, dried herbs, vinegars, salt and pepper keeps the stove side organized for action.

## Cleaning secrets



It's true: ketchup can be used to clean copper. ISTOCK IMAGES

## Some people put ketchup on everything



**CHARLES THE BUTLER**  
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For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

**Dear Mr. Butler,**  
My friend says that besides ketchup being a great condiment, you can use ketchup to clean metal. Is this true or is she pulling my leg?  
-Ketchup Lover

Dear Ketchup Lover,

Your friend is correct. Ketchup is first and foremost a great condiment, but if used on copper it is a good cleaner for removing light tarnishing as well.

This is how I have tried it in the past with great success: wash the copper pot using normal dish soap, dry, then take a liberal amount of ketchup and spread it all over the copper surface.

Let it stand for a good 20 to 30 minutes. Rinse with warm water and repeat if necessary. So why does this work? Well the magic is all in the ketchup.

It is actually the acid from the tomatoes that act as the cleaning agent. The myth is true!

# Are you wearing colourful chemicals

## Non-toxic nail polish for Valentine's Day is so much sexier.



**QUEEN OF GREEN**  
Tovah Paglaro  
green@metronews.ca

If red nails are part of your valentine's plans, show yourself some love and choose a non-toxic option.

Many Canadians mistakenly believe that since nail polish is widely available on store shelves and since it sports no warning label, it is free of health risks. Unfortunately, this isn't the case.

Although cosmetic producers in Canada are required to disclose product ingredients, they don't have to warn you about the health concerns associated with those ingredients.

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, 80 per cent of cosmetics contain at least one ingredient linked to health and environmental concerns.

Your bottle of nail polish likely contains at least three.

When shopping for a new bottle of Cherry Red, take care to avoid the following common chemicals of concern found in nail products:

### 1. Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)

Used as a plasticizer to prevent nail polishes from be-

coming brittle, this phthalate is classified by the EU as a suspected endocrine disruptor. In children, it's associated with liver and kidney failure when sucked or chewed. For this reason, Health Canada banned the use of DBP in soft vinyl children's toys, but its use in cosmetics is not restricted.

### 2. Formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasing ingredients

The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen, but there are no restrictions on the use of formaldehyde-releasing preservatives (like DMDM hydantoin, diazolidinyl urea, imidazolidinyl urea, methenamine, quaternium-15 and sodium hydroxymethylglycinate) in nail polish. Formaldehyde itself is allowed in concentrations up to five per cent in nail polish hardeners.

### 3. Toluene

Toluene is a paint thinner that adversely affects the central nervous system when vapours are inhaled. According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, short-term exposure can lead to temporary loss of coordination and headaches, confusion and dizziness. Repeated exposure presents more serious health risks. Ironically, it's also a skin irri-

tant and prolonged contact can cause dermatitis.

Luckily, you can have your cake (or heart-shaped candy) and eat it too.

In recent years, non-toxic nail polishes have made a splash in the cosmetic world, making it simple to enjoy a manicure without the toxic worries. Reading the labels is the place to start. For

brand recommendations, The Environmental Working Group's Skin Deep database is the absolute go-to. It's searchable and includes an extensive list of product ratings, ingredient disclosures and other resources.

Or, if a quick list of suggestions is more your style, check out Care2's recent list of non-toxic nail polishes.

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# A healthy dose of sweetness for your funny valentine



**ROSE REISMAN**  
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rosereisman.com

With all of the sweet and sticky candy and chocolate you may consume on V-Day, why not try something a bit lighter?

These brownies, which I created for the Mövenpick restaurant chain in Toronto, are only 140 calories and seven grams of fat per serving.

The cocoa, oil and yogurt

that replace traditional butter and chocolate are the way to keep the calorie and fat count low.

If that's not enough to convince you to whip these up, consider that Mövenpick sells 1,500 of these brownies per month.

They're also now featured in my catering company and still rank as the number one dessert.

**1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-inch-square pan with cooking oil.

**2.** For the brownies, combine the sugar, oil, egg and vanilla in a bowl and mix well. Add the cocoa, mixing it in well. Add the flour, baking powder, yogurt and chocolate chips, mixing just until combined and smooth. Don't over mix.

**3.** Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake in the center of the oven for 15 to 20 minutes, just until set. Do not overbake. Cool on a rack for 15 minutes before icing.

**4.** To make the icing, place all the icing ingredients, except for the sugar, in a blender or food processor and process until smooth. Spread over the top of the brownies.

**5.** Cut into squares and garnish with a dusting of icing sugar, or drizzle melted dark and white chocolate overtop.

**ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

## Triple Chocolate Brownies



**This recipe serves 12. LORELLA ZANETTI, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)**

## Ingredients

**Prep time: 10 minutes**  
**Bake time: 20 minutes**

### Brownies

- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder

- 1/4 cup low-fat yogurt or sour cream
- 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- Icing**
- 1/3 cup light cream cheese
- 2/3 cup icing sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 tsp water
- dusting of icing sugar

# Chocolate cake indulgence

Love is always sweeter when expressed with chocolate! Especially on Valentine's Day.

Yes, chocolate... And the more ooey-goey deeply chocolaty, the better. Still, there's no sense overdoing it. That's why this chocolate dream of a recipe takes the

form of small-ish individual cakes rather than a single, family-sized gut-buster.

**1.** Coat eight 1/3- or 1/4-cup ramekins with cooking spray. Sprinkle about 1 teaspoon of sugar into each, swirling it around to coat the bottom and

sides, then dumping out excess.

**2.** Finely chop 2 1/2 ounces of the chocolate. Cut the remaining 2 ounces into 16 pieces, roughly the same size, then set those aside.

**3.** Bring a small saucepan of water to a bare simmer. Set a medium stainless steel bowl over it and add the 2 1/2 ounces of finely chopped chocolate to that. Heat, stirring occasionally, until the chocolate is melted.

**4.** While the chocolate is melting, in another medium bowl use an electric mixer to beat the egg yolks with 1 tablespoon of the sugar until they are thick and lemon coloured, about 4 minutes. Set the bowl aside and clean the beaters well.

**5.** In a third medium bowl, use the electric mixer to beat the egg whites until they form soft peaks. Add the remaining 3 tablespoons of granulated sugar, a little at a time, and continue beating until the whites hold stiff peaks. Set aside.

**6.** Remove melted chocolate from heat. Add yogurt and stir well. Add egg yolk mix and stir well. Add one third of egg whites to chocolate mix, stirring well, then gently fold in the remaining egg whites until they are just combined with the chocolate mixture. Divide batter among prepared ramekins.

Cover and chill for 1 hour.

**7.** While cakes chilling, heat oven to 325 F.

**8.** In a blender, puree the raspberries with the sugar. Pour the mixture through a mesh strainer, using a silicone spatula to press the pulp. Discard the pulp and seeds. Thin the sauce with water or (with the reserved raspberry liquid (if using frozen berries) until the sauce has a nice pouring consistency.

**9.** Remove the ramekins from the fridge, tuck 2 pieces of the cut chocolate into the centre of each and bake in the middle of the oven for 15 to 18 minutes, or until just springy when touched. Let cool for 5 minutes, then unmould or serve in the ramekins. Serve drizzled with the raspberry sauce.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Ingredients

### For the chocolate cakes

- 1/4 cup sugar, plus 8 tsp for coating the ramekins
- 4 1/2 oz bittersweet chocolate
- 2 large eggs, whites and yolks separated and brought to room temperature
- 1/3 cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt

### For the sauce

- 1 1/2 cups raspberries
- 1 1/2 tbsp sugar

## Dessert. Chocolate Bark



**1.** Line rimmed baking sheet with waxed paper. Have all your bark toppings ready before melting chocolate. If your chocolate is in bars or large, thick pieces, use knife to carefully chop into small bits. Transfer chocolate to large glass measuring cup or bowl, then heat in microwave on medium, stopping to stir every 20 to 30

seconds, until melted.

**2.** Pour the chocolate onto the prepared pan, then tap the pan on the counter to level the melted chocolate. Immediately sprinkle your choice of toppings over the surface of the chocolate. Allow to cool completely and set up, then break into pieces. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Ingredients

1 lb dark, milk or white chocolate

### Topping Suggestions:

- Large-flake coconut, toasted sliced almonds, cocoa nibs
- Chopped dried cherries, shelled pistachios, chopped chocolate wafer cookies, large flake sea salt
- Crushed toffee pieces, toasted pumpkin seeds, chopped dried apricots
- Chopped candied ginger, chopped macadamia nuts, toasted coconut
- Broken salted pretzel sticks, cut up mini marshmallows, caramel popcorn

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IIHF

## Edmonton's Foley leaves post

Canadian Tanya Foley has stepped down as the International Ice Hockey Federation's women's program manager.

The Edmonton native was the first to be appointed to the position, which was created after the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The IIHF hired Foley to oversee women's hockey after International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said the sport needed to become more competitive.

Foley confirmed in an email to The Canadian Press that she left the job due to family reasons. Foley, her husband and young son are returning to Canada from Switzerland.

Her husband is a golf professional and has taken a job in the Vancouver area.

Foley joined the IIHF on Dec. 1, 2010, after serving as assistant sport manager of hockey at the Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

## Als sign trio to 2-year extensions

The Montreal Alouettes signed two-year contract extensions Wednesday with linebacker Chip Cox and receivers S.J. Green and Eric Deslauriers.

Cox, an Alouette since 2006, was a CFL all-star from 2009 to 2011. Last season he led the club with four interceptions and was second in tackles with a career-high 82.

Green had a second straight 1,000-yard season, registering 61 catches for 1,111 yards and four touchdowns. Deslauriers caught 13 passes for 299 yards.

The Als also released linebacker Rod Davis and non-import kicker Derek Schiavone. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



With scrappy upstarts like Teemu Hartikainen in the fold, Ryan Smyth and Ryan Whitney cannot rely on their experience to be their contribution to the Oilers.  
DUANE BURLESON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Smyth, Whitney need to step up for Oilers



THE HOCKEY NEWS  
Ryan Kennedy  
edmonton@metronews.ca

Edmonton's first-period performance against Dallas on Tuesday represented everything right about the evolving Oilers. Unfortunately for the home side, as we all know, hockey is a 60 minute game and at the end of this particular contest, it was the Stars who took advantage and ended up with the win. Speed is the Oilers' big draw right now, whether it be Taylor Hall stealing pucks from unsuspecting defenders or Sam Gagner hammering Dallas blue-liner Philip Larsen into the boards, using quickness

instead of body mass to deliver the payload.

That speed is not going away anytime soon, but the lesson of the 4-1 loss to the Stars is that youth and legs cannot win alone. Not even the heroics of goaltender Devan Dubnyk, hexed by two weird goals in that game, is enough. Simply put, Edmonton needs its veterans to step up and that means Ryan Whitney and Ryan Smyth cannot be healthy scratches.

When Smyth demanded a trade out of Los Angeles, it was a warm and fuzzy moment for many in Edmonton. This was Captain Canada, the Banff product with the awesome hockey hair, the guy who actually loved playing in Edmonton.

But I ask you, Oiler faithful: Do you want to win hockey games or just see your best buddy take a spin around the Rexall ice for old time's sake? Because that's what it has come to with Smyth. It's not too often that leaders on a team get scratched and when they do (remember when Craig Rivet was captain in Buffalo?), it's never a light decision for the coaching staff.

In his short tenure as bench boss, coach Ralph Krueger has been up front with his intentions and straightforward with his methods. Frankly, you can't ask for anything more if you're a player and it's probably nice if you're a fan, too: There's no smoke show with this man. He

wants to play uptempo hockey and he wants his team to be a meritocracy.

There's no room for Smyth among the top six forwards anymore and this was communicated to him before the season started. With scrappy upstarts such as Lennart Petrell and Teemu Hartikainen in the fold, Smyth cannot simply rely on his years of experience to be his contribution; this is now a team with depth. Same goes for Whitney, as recent acquisition Mark Fistric has proven — there is now enough talent in Edmonton to fill an entire lineup, something you couldn't say last season. It's time for both of them to put their work boots on again.

4 SPORTS

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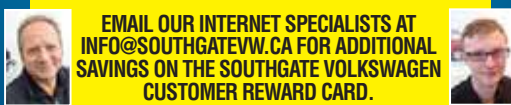


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# NHL players hope to play in Sochi

**Olympics.** The sport's marquee league has participated in Winter Games since 1998, but no agreement is in place for 2014

With one final flick, Sidney Crosby's 2010 overtime goal won Canada the gold medal and elicited national pride in the host country.

But will it stand as the last goal scored by an NHL player in the Olympics?

The labour dispute settled, the NHL can now focus on another lingering issue that needs a quick resolution. The NHL and NHL Players' Association have yet to agree with the IOC and the International Ice Hockey Federation to participate in the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

With the opening ceremony set for Feb. 7, 2014, the countdown clock for the first faceoff is ticking.

The 2014 Games, which run through Feb. 23, will feature more than 3,000 athletes. Players such as Crosby, New York's Rick Nash, Carolina's Eric Staal, Chicago's Patrick Kane and so many other All-Stars would love another shot at putting on

the Olympic sweater for their home country.

Vancouver Canucks goalie Cory Schneider, a likely Team USA candidate, is one of the hopefuls who said the NHL should play again in 2014.

"I think the fans want to see that," he said. "I think the players realistically would want to go do that. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I think we'd all be in favour of it."

The NHL has taken part in every Olympics since the Nagano Games in 1998. All sides were set to meet Thursday and Friday in New York as they work toward a deal that would ensure the world's best players would again be showcased on sport's grandest stage.

The idea that the Olympics would be held in Russia, home of the KHL, with the NHL frozen out seems tough to imagine. After all, some of the league's top players are from Russia or have ties to the KHL.

IIHF president Rene Fasel has been adamant that the games will go on with the NHL players. After the rousing success and elevated ratings in Vancouver, Fasel said it "would be wrong for the game, for the fans, not having the best players in Sochi."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada's Sidney Crosby scores the golden goal past Ryan Miller of the U.S. at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The NHL and NHL Players' Association have yet to agree with the IOC and the International Ice Hockey Federation to participate in the 2014 Sochi Olympics. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

## Bettman's concerns

- The NHL is unhappy at ceding control of its players to the IOC and being barred from using Olympic highlights on its website.
- The league also receives no revenue from the telecasts and has no say about which cable station carries games.

## NHL. Blue Jackets make history with hiring of new general manager

The Columbus Blue Jackets hurried to make history.

Just more than 24 hours after firing Scott Howson, they announced the hiring of Jarmo Kekalainen of Finland as the first European to be a general manager in the National Hockey League.

Kekalainen, director of amateur scouting with the St. Louis Blues from 2002-10, held a news conference on Wednesday in his native Finland at the same time the Blue Jackets Blue Jackets held theirs in Ohio.

The 46-year-old, who played sparingly in the NHL, worked closely with Columbus director of hockey operations

## Quoted

"I'm really happy and pleased, even proud, that I've been give this chance."

Jarmo Kekalainen, the new general manager of the Columbus Blue Jackets

John Davidson with the Blues. When the Blues hired Doug Armstrong as general manager in 2010 instead of Kekalainen, Kekalainen returned to Finland to take over as GM of Jokerit in Finland's top league.

The Blue Jackets are 4-7-2 in this lockout-shortened season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NHL

### Karlsson cut by skate blade

Ottawa Senators defenceman Erik Karlsson will need surgery to repair his left Achilles after the tendon was cut by a skate blade late in the second period on Wednesday night against Pittsburgh.

The Norris Trophy winner last season as the NHL's top defenceman, Karlsson was cut by Penguins forward Matt Cooke's skate blade as the two tangled along the boards.

Karlsson leads NHL defencemen with six goals, scoring three times in his previous four games. He had a short-handed goal to help the Senators beat Buffalo 2-0 on Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NHL

### Blues end slump against Wings

Alexander Steen stuffed in a rebound 52 seconds into overtime, lifting the St. Louis Blues to a 4-3 slumping victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday night.

St. Louis snapped a five-game losing streak that followed a 6-1 start.

The Red Wings had won a season-high three straight, a stretch that started with a 5-1 victory over St. Louis, and had beaten the Blues four games in a row at home.

Detroit blew a two-goal lead in the first period and chances to win in the third period on a pair of power plays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Wrestling leader to argue for sport with IOC

**Olympics.** 'The door is not closed,' committee says of 2020 removal

Facing a wave of criticism from around the world, IOC president Jacques Rogge will meet with the head of wrestling's governing body to discuss ways the sport can fight to save its place in the Olympics.

The IOC executive board dropped wrestling from the program of the 2020 Games on Tuesday, a decision that brought a sharp backlash from wrestling organizations

and national Olympic bodies around the world — including Canada, the United States, Russia and Iran.

The move must still be ratified by the full International Olympic Committee in September, giving wrestling time to try to overturn a decision against a sport that dates back to the ancient Olympics and has been featured since the inaugural modern games in 1896.

Rogge said Wednesday that he has been contacted by Raphael Martinetti, the Swiss president of international wrestling federation FILA, and was encouraged by the sport's resolve to make changes and fight for its place.

## One spot open

Wrestling now joins seven other sports vying for one opening on the 2020 program: A combined bid from baseball and softball, karate, squash, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding and the martial art of wushu.

"We agreed we would meet at the first opportunity to have discussions," Rogge said at a news conference at the close of a two-day board meeting. "I should say FILA reacted well to this disheartening news for them."

"They vowed to adapt the sport and vowed to fight to be eventually included in the 2020 slot."

Wrestling, which remains on the program for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, still has a chance to stay on the list for 2020 — if it manages to respond positively to the wake-up call and convince the IOC to change course.

"This is not the end of the day. The door is not closed," IOC vice-president Thomas Bach of Germany said. "It's good to see the reaction of FILA to say, 'OK, we have understood, we have to do something and we will present a plan for the future of wrestling.' That is the right attitude." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge says he will meet with the head of wrestling's governing body to discuss ways the sport can fight to save its place in the 2020 Olympics. LAURENT GILLIERON/KEYSTONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Raptors rough up Knicks, Melo

Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan splits New York Knicks' J.R. Smith, left, and Tyson Chandler on Wednesday night in New York. The Raptors won 92-88. To make matters worse for the Knicks, Carmelo Anthony's All-Star game start could be in jeopardy after he received a deep bruise in his right arm that caused numbness.

FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## Family fans

## Man ordered to cough up season tickets

How scarce are Winnipeg Jets tickets?

Scarce enough that a family went to court when a deal to split season tickets crumbled.

Queen's Bench Justice Morris Kaufman ruled Wednesday in favour of Darlene Gibb, the woman who said her brother-in-law reneged on their plan and refused to turn over the tickets as promised.

Kaufman said some of John Longstaff's statements didn't make sense.

"It's clear to me that this was a legal arrangement," Kaufman said in ordering that the season tickets be transferred to Gibb.

"This was a mutually beneficial contract."

Longstaff has been a hockey fan since 1973 and, because he had Manitoba Moose season tickets, he was eligible for Jets tickets when they replaced the AHL franchise in the city.

He could have had four and Gibb only wanted two but she testified he had concerns about how long he would be wanting the tickets and opted for only two, agreeing to transfer them to her when that was permitted.

There is a waiting list of 8,000 people who want Jets season tickets so there are strict rules on how ticket holders can transfer them.

Gibb and her son Ian Gibb paid the \$2,000 deposit and her son signed for the long-term commitment True North Sports and Entertainment demanded of all season-ticket holders.

But when the season ended, she says her brother-in-law told her he didn't want to transfer them.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Ontario skip to enjoy home ice at Scotties

Ontario skip Rachel Homan showed in her first appearance at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts that she could hang with the top rinks from around the country.

She's set to make a return appearance at the Canadian women's curling championship, which kicks off Saturday in Kingston, Ont., and hopes to make more than just a playoff appearance this time around.

"We've been there before and we made it all the way to the semis our first time," Homan said of her 2011 showing. "I think this time our team has grown a bit, has got more experience and we expect to be right there hopefully battling in the final if we can."

At 23, the Ottawa skip is one of the best young players in the game. Her rink of third Emma Miskew, second Alison Krevia-

zuk and lead Lisa Weagle holds the third spot in the Canadian Team Ranking System.

Homan will also have a supportive Ontario crowd on her side when play begins at the K-Rock Centre. There are several experienced skips in the 12-rink competition, including defending champ Heather Nedohin of Alberta, B.C.'s Kelly Scott and Manitoba's Jennifer Jones.

"It looks like a really tough field," Homan said. "Lots of teams with lots of experience, a lot more years than us. But we've had our fair share of finals and playoffs and TV games and things like that."

Homan posted a 13-0 record in the 2010 national junior play-downs and won a silver medal at the world junior championships that year.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Ontario skip Rachel Homan  
**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



## Horoscopes

## ♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

It doesn't matter what you do today so long as you do something. If you sit still for more than a minute this morning, you may not get up again until the evening — and only to go back to bed.

## ♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

There is no point trying to judge people by your own standards. They will never match up. The best you can hope for, today and any other day, is that they learn from your good example. So go on, be one.

## ♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

The more others try to get you to change, the more you should stick with what you know and trust. No doubt they will come up with all sorts of reasons why you should take a risk, but don't do it.

## ♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

What sounds like bad news is nothing of the sort. Chances are you are looking at it from completely the wrong angle. Facts are facts, of course, but even facts can sometimes be open to interpretation.

## ♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You are not the sort to give up just because you failed at something once. Yes, you may be annoyed that you did not do a project justice, but there is still plenty of time to do it again and do it right.

## ♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

There is something you have to do today and even though it may be a total bore you know that until you see it through to completion partners and colleagues won't give you a moment's peace. Get started on it now.

## ♏ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You may hear a few whispers or rumours today, most likely about someone you like. You are advised to ignore them. Most likely, it is just nasty he said, she said. Even if it is true, it's still nothing to do with you.

## ♐ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't cut any corners today because someone important is watching and they will make a big deal of it. It may be that you have to do a lot of work for very little profit, but sometimes that's just how it is.

## ♑ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You don't have to put up with people who waste your precious time on trivial things. Tell them where to go today, and say it in a way that makes it clear you mean it.

## ♒ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may be eager to make changes but you won't be able to push partners faster than they want to go today. Which begs the question: Have you signed up with the wrong partners? Give it some thought.

## ♓ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

No matter how hard you try to persuade a friend or work colleague to see things your way, it just isn't going to happen, so give up. It's true, you know, some people are almost as stubborn as you!

## ♈ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Other people may be selfish and put their own interests first but not you. With Mars, Mercury and Neptune all moving through your sign, you know it pays to be generous. The more you give now, the more you'll get later.

SALLY BROMPTON

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

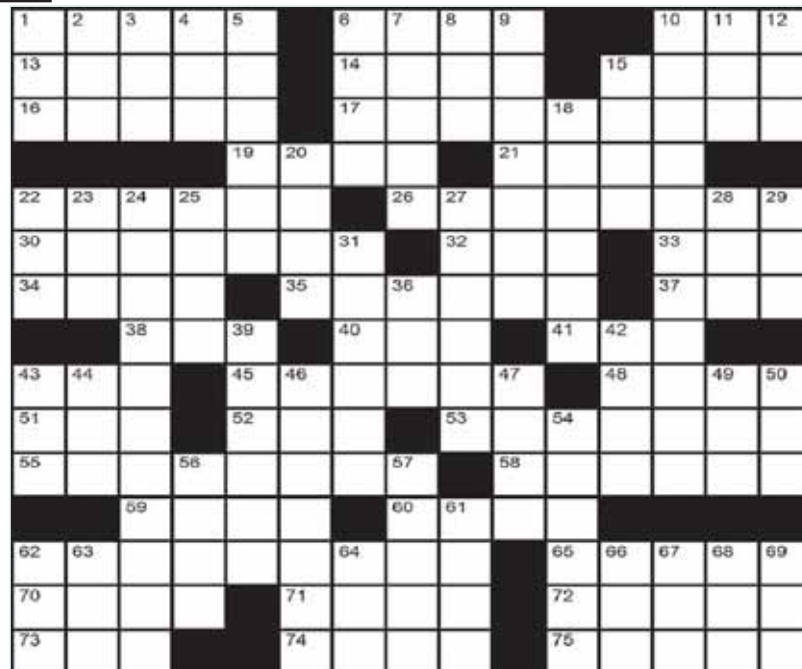
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

## Across

1. Valentine's Day icon
6. "Rich Bride \_\_\_ Bride" on Slice
10. Sisco's group, \_\_\_ Hill
13. Popeye's beloved
14. Sparkling wine city of Italy
15. Italian car manufacturer
16. Actress Kathy
17. Valentine's gift
19. Speck
21. Khloe Kardashian's husband, Lamar \_\_\_
22. James Blunt album: 'Back to \_\_\_'
26. Rocky sun-orbiter
30. Versus
32. Extra sports periods, for short
33. Perfume by Cacharel
34. Explosive star
35. Eucalyptus eaters
37. Horse coat hue
38. Bug
40. Deli bread
41. Nav. rank
43. Misfire
45. "That's being taken care of by me, boss!": 3 wds.
48. Isn't, wrong-style
51. Cute bark
52. 'Alma' add-on (Facts reference book)
53. Taylor of 'Twilight' flicks
55. \_\_\_ Gold Rush
58. Canadian auto service company
59. Shaker stuff
60. Gardening tool
62. Emily Bronte's \_\_\_ Heights
65. Himalayas land
70. Chemical suffixes
71. 'Susp' add-on
72. Curtain
73. Val- \_\_\_, Quebec
74. Investigators, for short
75. "When Harry Met \_\_\_" (1989)

## Down

1. Corn on the \_\_\_
2. Suffix with 'Form'
3. Peach part
4. 'Excess' suffix
5. Canadian singer Shawn



6. Agreement
7. "Romeo and Juliet" (1968) actor Milo
8. Prefix that means 'Ear'
9. Cheese in lasagna
10. Blue Rodeo hit that goes "...our love shines like a...": 2 wds.
11. Alleyway animal
12. Sport-\_\_\_ (Versatile vehicle)
15. Flower: Spanish
18. Ukraine port city
20. City of Russia
22. Ray-\_\_\_ (Sunglasses maker)
23. Kind of boost
24. Grammy-winning record producer born in Victoria: 2 wds.
25. 1997 Jim Carrey comedy, when doubled
27. Cirque du \_\_\_
28. Indebted one's letters
29. Mr. Aykroyd
31. "For Those About \_\_\_" (We Salute You)" by AC/DC
36. Novelist Ms. Rand
39. Amazon e-book reader
42. Court
43. Fargo, North \_\_\_
44. www address
46. \_\_\_ (Restaurant occupation)
47. Chore
49. "Waking \_\_\_ Devine" (1998)
50. Otis Redding song: "\_\_\_ a Little
- Tenderness"
54. Overturns
56. Nopes
57. Surrealist artist Max
61. 'Band' suffix (Medical supplies)
62. Tie the knot
63. Numero \_\_\_
64. 'Benedict' suffix
66. Baseball pitcher's stat.
67. Chum
68. Fergie's bandmate, \_\_\_de.arp
69. Grassy field

## Yesterday's Crossword

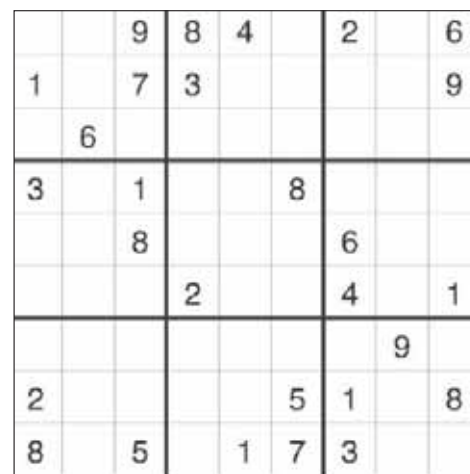


## Sudoku

## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



## Weather

TODAY

MAX: -2°  
MIN: -10°

FRIDAY

MAX: 8°  
MIN: -8°

SATURDAY

MAX: -1°  
MIN: -3°MICHELE MCDOUGALL  
WEATHER SPECIALIST

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